

Kennedy Middle School

School Council

Thursday, January 25th, 2024

7:00 - 7:30 am

In Person Meeting, KMS Library

Open Public Meeting

- I. Introductions (7:00-7:05 am)
 - A. Include any community members who have joined (open meeting for all).
 - B. Assign notetaker:
- II. Depression Screening - January
 - A. Grade 7 only this year
 - B. Went well from school perspective
 - C. Any community input?
- III. Connectivity Survey
 - A. Happened during half day
 - B. This will give the district data for programming
- IV. Chromebook damage on the rise
- V. Laps at lunch update - check in with Matt about any more questions.
 - A. We are not getting many volunteers.
- VI. New Superintendent candidate in negotiations
- VII. Community Forum Time (7:20-7:25) - if needed
- VIII. Determine next meeting date (7:25 - 7:30 am)
 - A. February date ?

Notetaker:

Our Reality:

All students deserve high-quality, tier one instruction that supports a year's growth in a year's time. We have developed and launched a well staffed and effective Response To Intervention system with specialists and interventionists support. Each year, our schools have met the median SGP growth targets. We now need to calibrate and strengthen the Tier 1 support services across the middle schools, so that all teachers engage in the tools available to continue their growth as educators. The new DESE educator rubric draft has a focus on student agency, including the ability for students to self-assess, problem-solve, ask for support, access resources when needed, and demonstrate leadership and/or positively contribute to the classroom and school community.

Goal #1: In order for all students to have more ownership in their learning, our staff will provide at least one opportunity per trimester in each content area for students to self-assess, problem-solve, ask for support, access resources when needed, and demonstrate leadership and/or positively contribute to the classroom and school community as measured by assessments, assignments, and projects for each content area.

Our Reality: The experiences over the last year and a half have created an increased awareness of the inequities that exist in education and in our community. We need to identify our implicit bias' and ensure that we are allowing ALL students to thrive in our school communities while providing professional development for staff around restorative practices. Our behavior rubric is outdated and in need of more effective alternative practices that encompass more learning than punitive measures.

Goal #2: By June 2024, middle school staff will deepen their understanding and utilize restorative practices in the classroom to increase student ownership and engagement in their behaviors. In addition, office referrals and suspensions will decrease by 3-5% while also decreasing our disproportionality of students.

Our Reality:

Students: According to the American Psychological Association, mental illness is becoming increasingly common among teenagers throughout the United States and globally. Recent studies indicate that approximately one in five teens between ages twelve and eighteen suffer from at least one diagnosable mental health disorder. Although we have strong support system in place at Wilson and Kennedy, we recognize the need to do more to meet the needs of all of our students. Since the pandemic, we need to acknowledge and address the impact on their social-emotional development and foster their connectedness to school. We also want to streamline our SEL resources (Positivity Project, SEL Half Days, MyCAP and WIN time to make them more accessible, promoting consistency across both middle schools, and will create a portfolio for each student. We will use the Thrively platform to accomplish this goal and training will be provided.

Staff: Since the Pandemic, it has been clear that staff stress levels have increased dramatically, while staff satisfaction has decreased. In an effort to better support staff, we will focus on staff well-being by targeting building trust, managing stress, equity and belonging, and resilience and efficacy.

Goal #3:

Student Goal: During the 2023-2024 school year, we will increase students' sense of belonging in school by promoting a healthy and safe learning environment as assessed by the panorama survey, SAEBS and increased student involvement in extracurricular activities as measured by pre and post data (fall to spring).

Staff Goal: During the 2023-2024, we will increase staff satisfaction in the workplace by promoting a healthy and safe work environment as assessed by panorama survey data and provide monthly opportunities and activities focused on building trust, managing stress, equity and belonging, and resilience and efficacy.